

Background Knowledge:

The story of prehistoric Britain began when the first humans arrived in Britain. It ended when the Romans conquered the ancient Britons and Britain became part of the Roman Empire.

The earliest humans were hunter-gatherers. They survived by hunting animals and finding food to eat. Then, very gradually people learned new skills. First they learned to herd animals and grow crops. Later they discovered the secrets of making bronze and iron. Prehistoric people couldn't read or write, but they were astonishing builders. Their tombs, forts and monuments have survived for thousands of years.

The main difference between the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Ages was the materials they used. This meant houses were different and the way they used the land changed.

The Romans invaded to gain land (and power). They began to charge tax for people living on the land. Hadrian's wall was built. The Romans left many legacies: many of our buildings and how they were heated; the way we get rid of sewage; the roads we use; some of our wild animals; religion; the words and languages we speak; how we calculate distances; numbers and why we use money to pay for goods.

The Anglo- Saxons arrived in Britain because the Romans retreated as there were wars and flooding in Italy. The *Anglo-Saxons* left their homelands in northern Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands.

The Vikings raided, searching for better land. Some came to raid and steal from monasteries. The Vikings originated from the area that became modern-day Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

The Anglo-Saxon and Viking period come to an end during the Battle of Hastings (14 October 1066). The Normans won, Harold was killed, and William became king.